

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DUCK BREEDING POPULATIONS ARE ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, SURVEY INDICATES

Duck breeding populations generally are equal to last year's, but there are increases in western Canada and decreases in Alaska and Manitoba, according to a survey conducted by the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service.

The mallard population is about the same as in 1970, which is 10 percent above the past 10-year average. Pintails are 9 percent below 1970 and 11 percent below average. Blue-winged teal are 5 percent above 1970 and 7 percent above average. Redheads are down 6 percent from a year ago and 10 percent from average, while canvasbacks are down 15 percent from 1970 and 12 percent below average.

The number of ponds increased 28 percent in Alberta, but decreased in Saskatchewan (17 percent), Manitoba (5 percent), and the Dakotas (18 percent).

Surveys of "duck factory" country, which includes the Dakotas, western Minnesota, eastern Montana, and large parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, are done annually in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, State and Provincial agencies, and Ducks Unlimited, Canada.

The surveys provide additional information needed in developing waterfowl hunting regulations to be announced in August.

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